

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /008 R

66618

DRAFTED BY EB/JMDERHAM

APPROVED BY JMDERHAM

DESIRED DIST

EB (ONLY) ISO

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O 010030Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION OECD PARIS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 154755

FOR ENDERS AND JULIUS KATZ

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 9337 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN NY

CAIRO DTD 29 JUN 75

QUOTE:

UNCLAS ROME 9337

FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNWFC

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL - JUNE 23 - 27, 1975

/SUMMARY/ AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON RULES OF PROCEDURE MET FOUR TIMES BETWEEN JUNE 24-27 TO EXAMINE WFC DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE. MEMBERS WERE: AUSTRALIA, BANGLADESH, CUBA, EGYPT, GABON, GUINEA, FRG, IRAN, KENYA, MEXICO, PAKISTAN, SWEDEN, T&T, USSR, US AND YUGOSLAVIA. MEXICO (ARMENDARIZ) WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP. MOST CONTENTIOUS ISSUES RAISED WAS ROLE TO BE ACCORDED WFC PRESIDENT VIS-A-VIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. LDC'S SOUGHT FUNCTIONS FOR PRESIDENT SUPERIOR TO OR IN INTERFERENCE WITH SECRETARIAOWM US AND OTHER DC'S OPPOSED. WORKING GROUP DECIDED THIS ISSUE WOULD BE HANDLED UNCLASSIFIED

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OUTSIDE THE REPORT, I.E., CHAIRMAN OF WORKING GROUP WOULD INDICATE INABILITY WORKING GROUP TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON THIS POINT AND WOULD RECOMMEND ISSUE BE COMMITTED TO RECONVENED WORKING GROUP ON RULES. /END SUMMARY/

1. AT ITS FIRST MEETING, AD HOC WORKING GROUP (WG) QUICKLY BOGGED DOWN ON QUESTION OF ROLES OF WFC PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. LDC'S ARGUED (A) THAT DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE (WFC/2) TREATED PRESIDENT ONLY AS CHAIRMAN OF A MEETING; (B) THAT PRESIDENT SHOULD HAVE MORE SUBSTANTIVE ROLE TO IMPLEMENT DECISIONS OF WFC; (C) THAT THIS ROLE SHOULD EXIST EVEN DURING INTERSESSIONAL PERIODS; (D) THAT, PERHAPS, PRESIDENT SHOULD BE CHIEF OF WFC SECRETARIAT; AND (E) THAT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, I.E., HIS POSITION AND TITLE, WERE IMPOSED ON WFC BY UN SECRETARY GENERAL WITHOUT AUTHORITY.

2. WEO'S ON WG OBJECTED TO OR DISPUTED ALL PRIOR POINTS, POINTING TO REGULAR PRACTICE FOR UN ORGANS AS TO SECRETARIAT AND PRESIDENT FUNCTIONS, AND LANGUAGE OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RES. 3348 (XXIX) REQUESTING UN SECRETARY-GENERAL TO ESTABLISH WFC SECRETARIAT. ISSUE WAS ACTUALLY JOINED ON PARA 2 OF RULE 1 (DOCUMENT WFC/2). LDC'S SOUGHT TO AMEND RULE TO PERMIT PRESIDENT RIGHT TO REQUEST CHANGE IN DATE OF REGULAR SESSION, AND TO DENY SAME RIGHT TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. THOUGH THIS WAS RELATIVELY MINOR POINT, DC'S FIRMLY OPPOSED, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT LDC ADMISSION THIS WAS ONLY FIRST STEP IN PLACING PRESIDENT IN COMPETITION WITH AND OR CONTROL OVER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND WFC SECRETARIAT.

3. WG DID NOT PROGRESS PAST THIS RULE. REMAINDER OF WG TIME WAS SPENT ATTEMPTING TO AGREE ON ITS REPORT TO PLENARY. REPORT FINALLY AGREED UPON AT NOON ON LAST DAY OF SESSION CONTAINED FOLLOWING POINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: (A) DUE TO LACK OF TIME AND SUBSTANTIVE DISAGREEMENTS, WG UNABLE APPROVE A DRAFT; (B) COUNCIL SHOULD DECIDE TO DIRECT SECRETARIAT TO CIRCULATE RULES (WFC/2) TO COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR COMMENT AND TO HAVE WG RECONVENED (WITH SAME COMPOSITION AS PRESENT) AT LATER DATE TO CONSIDER RULES IN LIGHT OF GOVERNMENT COMMENTS, WITH AIM THAT SECOND SESSION WFC WILL ADOPT ITS RULES OF PROCEDURE; AND (C) THAT COUNCIL SHOULD DECIDE THAT OFFICERS ELECTED AT ITS FIRST SESSION SHOULD SERVE UNTIL THE ELECTION
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OF THEIR SUCCESSORS AT ITS NEXT SESSION "AT WHICH TIME IT WILL ADOPT ITS RULES OF PROCEDURE."

/COMMENT/ - U.S. DELEGATE DOUBTS LIKELIHOOD THAT WFC WILL ACTUALLY ADOPT ITS RULES AT ITS NEXT SESSION. /END COMMENT/

4. THE WG AGREED (WITH A RESERVATION BY GABON) THAT WG CHAIRMAN (ARMANDRIZ), AFTER HAVING PRESENTED ORAL WG REPORT, WOULD STATE THAT (A) WG CONSIDERED ROLE THAT THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHOULD PLAY WITH REGARD TO IMPLEMENTATION OF WFC DECISION ON RECOMMENDATIONS; (B) WG UNABLE TO REACH UNANIMITY AS REGARDS THE PRECISE ROLE EACH SHOULD PLAY; AND (C) WG RECOMMENDS WFC SHOULD BRING THIS MATTER TO ATTENTION

RECONVENED WG FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION.

COMMENT: THIS LANGUAGE AND PROCEDURE WAS SUGGESTED BY
MEXICAN CHAIRMAN ARMANDRIZ AFTER LONG, DIFFICULT EXCHANGE
IN WHICH GABON, GUINEA, EGYPT, ET AL, INSISTED WG RECOMMEND
TO WFC BROAD POWERS FOR PRESIDENT, AND U.S., WITH OCCASIONAL
ASSISTANCE OTHER WEO'S, STRENUOUSLY OPPOSED. RESULT WAS
ONLY POSTPONEMENT OF INEVITABLE MAJOR STRUGGLE ON ROLE OF
WFC PRESIDENT. GIVEN LATENESS OF AGREEMENT ON REPORT, THERE
IS LITTLE CHANCE REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN WRITTEN TEXT
WHEN PRESENTED TO COUNCIL.VOLPE UNQUOTE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE154755
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EB/JMDERHAM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750226-1124
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507103/baaaaobo.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: OCON, UNWFC
To: OECD PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006